August 23, 2007 Morning Highlights 2007-108 Contact: Maggie Rogers, 356-5511

EMERGENCY FIREFIGHTER CREW UPDATE

Five Emergency Firefighter (EFF) crews will travel to the Zaca Fire in southern California on Sunday. The fire is 15 miles northeast of Buellton, CA and burning in chaparral, timber and heavy brush. Sunday's group will be the eighth group of crews that have been sent to wildland fires in the Lower-48. In other words, a total of 40 Alaska EFF crews have been ordered for fires outside of the state this season. Groups 5,6 and 7 are nearing the end of their 14-day assignments and, starting this weekend, will begin to return to Alaska.

SMOKEJUMPER UPDATE

BLM Alaska Fire Service Smokejumpers are highly trained wildland firefighters that parachute into the vicinity of fire (often inaccessible by road) and specialize in suppression. Thirty-nine of Alaska's smokejumpers are supplementing those in Missoula, Grangeville and Boise. One smokejumper is serving as a Crew Representative for an EFF crew on assignment while fourteen remain in Alaska for potential fire suppression activities and other reasons.

NATIONAL WILDLAND FIRE INFORMATION

Initial attack was heavy nationally on Wednesday with 306 new fires reported. For information about the national situation, please visit: http://www.nifc.gov/fire info/nfn.htm or http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

- Alaska Interagency Coordination Center: http://fire.ak.blm.gov
 - o Map of Current Fires: http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php
 - Situation Report: http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf
- National Fire Situation: http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf
- Creating Defensible Space: http://firewise.org/ and http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/forestry/pdfs/02firewise.pdf
- Department of Transportation (Road Closure Info): (907) 451-2240, http://511.alaska.gov
- Division of Forestry, Burn Permit Info: (907) 451-2626, http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/forestry/fire/
- Department of Environmental Conservation (Smoke Concerns): http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm
- National Parks Service: www.nps.gov/akso/Fire/firehome.htm
- National Weather Service: http://www.nws.noaa.gov/
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife: http://www.fws.gov/fire/
- USDA Forest Service: http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/
- Temporary Flight Restriction Information: http://airspace.nifc.gov/mapping/nifc
- Federal Aviation Administration: http://www.faa.gov